

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 22, 2004 has been received and reviewed. Claims 2, 21, 25, 28-32, 37, 44, 51, 54, 56-62, 65, 69 and 71 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 21, 25, 44, 51, 54, 56-62, 65, 69 and 71 have been canceled as set forth herein. All cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants request that claim 37 be renumbered to claim 1 and that claims 28-32 be re-numbered to claims 2-6, respectively, upon the issuance of a notice of allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 2, 21, 25, 44, 51, 54, 56-62, 65, 69 and 71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as assertedly being anticipated by Crystal, *et al.*, 2000 (U.S. Patent 6,127,525). Claims 2, 21, 25, 44, 51, 54, 56-62, 65, 69 and 71 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

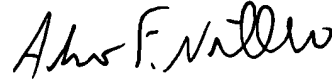
The cancellation of claims 2, 21, 25, 44, 51, 54, 56-62, 65, 69 and 71 should place the application in condition for allowance since claims 28-32 and 37 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the claims define patentable subject matter. Should the Office determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Office respectfully is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Serial No. 09/444,284

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew F. Nilles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "Nilles" clearly distinguishable.

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